



IFW

Docket: 97558.00004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application Of

Michael P. HANRATTY

Group Art Unit: 3752

Serial No. 10/603,272

Examiner: GANEY, Steven J.

Filed: June 25, 2003

Confirmation No.: 4463

For: **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR  
GENERATING HIGH VOLUMES OF FOAM**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

This Response to Restriction Requirement is submitted in response to an initial Office Action dated March 31, 2005 in connection with the above-referenced application. In the Office Action, the Examiner has identified four (4) groups and required election of one such group for purposes of examination herein. The Groups are identified as follows:

- Group I. Claims 1-14, drawn to apparatus for generating foam, classified in class 239, subclass 311.
- Group II. Claims 15-19, drawn to apparatus for generating foam, classified in 239, subclass 311.
- Group III. Claims 20-32, drawn to method for generating high volume, low pressure foam, classified in class 239, subclass 9.
- Group IV. Claims 33 and 34, drawn to apparatus for generating foam, classified in class 169, subclass 14.

**Initially, Applicant notes that this application was "made special" by a Decision on Petition dated September 15, 2004. Applicant hereby requests that further examination of this application be handled with special dispatch.**

Applicant hereby elects **Group I** (i.e., claims 1-14) for examination in the present application, without traverse.

The subject matter of Groups II-IV, i.e., claims 15-34, is hereby withdrawn from consideration in the present application. However, it is noted that upon allowance of generic claim 1, claims 15-32 will be rejoined (see Office Action, top of page 3). In addition, applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue this withdrawn subject matter by way of one or more divisional applications, in due course.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has also identified two (2) patentably distinct species and required election of one such species for purposes of examination herein. The two species identified in the Office Action are:

Species I:     Figures 2-4;

Species II:    Figures 8 and 9

Applicant hereby elects Species I, i.e., Figures 2-4, for examination in this application.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5 and 8-32 read on the elected species.

Prompt action on the merits of the present application, based on the foregoing election, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Basam E. Nabulsi  
Reg. No. 31,645  
Attorney for Applicant

Date: April 29, 2005

McCARTER & ENGLISH, LLP  
Four Stamford Plaza  
107 Elm Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Stamford, CT 06902  
(203) 965-0601  
HARTFORD: 638856.01

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